



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission

Conference Call
Friday, May 01, 2015
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:
Brad Smith, Chair
Bob Kehoe
Connie Mahnken
Jay Kehne
Jay Holzmiller
Dave Graybill
Kim Thorburn

Public:
Linda Saunders
Diane Gallegos

Department Staff:
Jim Unsworth, Director
Nate Pamplin
Donny Martorello
Joanna Eide
Joe Shorin, AG

Commission Staff
Tami Lininger

Friday, May 01, 2015

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Cougar Harvest Guidelines – Discussion

Commissioners and staff discussed the cougar hunting seasons that were approved in April, 2015 for the 2015-17 three-year hunting package.

There were some concerns regarding the amended proposal to increase the harvest guidelines from 12-16% to 17-21% in 14 of the cougar management units. Commissioners requested additional background about the potential biological impact and the rule-making process.

Staff presented an overview of the recent rule-making process, reviewed the structure of the cougar seasons, and presented harvest information from the 2012-14 seasons in the 14 hunt areas that were increased as context to assess how the revised guidelines might perform in those areas.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehne, requesting staff to initiate rule-making as part of next year's hunting regulation package to evaluate and set the cougar harvest guidelines for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 hunting seasons. All were in favor.

B. Technical Amendments to Recreational Fishing Rules – Decision

Joanna Eide, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator requested approval to technical changes to several recreational fishing rules to update, clarify provisions, and ensure rule accuracy.

Commissioner Kehne moved, seconded by Commissioner Graybill to adopt the rule changes as proposed with floor amendments as presented, all were in favor - motion passed.

C. Advisory Committee to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities Member Selection for Open Positions – Decision

The Commission considered a candidate for an open Region 2 position on the Advisory Committee to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

Commissioner Graybill moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahnken to appoint Daniel Dickerson from Leavenworth to the vacant position. All were in favor - motion passed.

D. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commission approved the meeting minutes of the April 9-10, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Kehne moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve the April 9-10, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, all were in favor - motion passed.

E. General Discussion

The September 2015 meeting will be moved to September 18-19 and will be held in the Spokane or Wenatchee area.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant